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courage is contagious

Viewing cable 06DAMASCUS4898, NO SIGN OF IMPROVED SYRIA-EGYPT RELATIONS,

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#06DAMASCUS4898**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
06DAMASCUS4898	2006-10-12 14:51	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Damascus

Appears in these articles:

[not](#)
[yet](#)
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VZCZCXRO7356
OO RUEHAG
DE RUEHDM #4898 2851451
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 121451Z OCT 06
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1999
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHXX/ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHGB/AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD PRIORITY 0230
RHMFISS/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 004898
SIPDIS

SIPDIS

PARIS FOR WALLER, LONDON FOR TSOU

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/12/2016
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [SY](#) [EG](#)
SUBJECT: NO SIGN OF IMPROVED SYRIA-EGYPT RELATIONS,

CONCESSIONS BY HAMAS

Classified By: Charge d'Affaires Michael H. Corbin for reasons 1.4 b/d

11. (C) SYRIA-EGYPT RELATIONS: Poloff met with an Egyptian diplomat October 11 to discuss recent press reports about an October 10 summit between Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Syrian President Bashar al-Asad, which ultimately did not take place. The diplomat said that relations between the two leaders remain frozen "like black ice," after Asad's August 15 speech before a Syrian journalists' association in which Asad likened some Arab leaders to "half men." The SARG has taken some steps to reconcile with Egypt, as was pointed out to the Egyptian Ambassador here in recent meetings with Syrian VP Farouk al-Shara'a and Syrian FM Walid Mu'allim, however these measures have not been enough, the diplomat said. (Note: While Shara'a said that the SARG had taken appropriate steps to mend the rift between the two leaders, Mu'allim voiced the opinion that the SARG could do more and that Shara'a had largely shaped the content and tone of Asad's speech, the diplomat said.) Additionally, during his August 21 visit to Damascus, the Emir of Qatar had successfully encouraged Asad to call Mubarak to express condolences about that day's fatal train wreck in Egypt, but Mubarak declined to speak to the Syrian leader, saying that he was occupied and would call back, said the diplomat, adding that almost two months later, Mubarak has yet to do so. In the Arab context, Asad is the junior partner and needs to make significant personal amends to Mubarak, said the diplomat, who speculated that a visit by the Egyptian leader to Syria in the near future remains highly unlikely notwithstanding recent press accounts.

12. (C) EXTERNAL HAMAS: The diplomat also dismissed Qatari efforts to reconcile the differences between Palestinian leaders, calling Qatar's six-point plan a recycled version of points that the Palestinians have mostly agreed to but failed to implement. The diplomat cited recent Egyptian conversations with Damascus-based Hamas leader Khalid Mish'al and his deputy Moussa Abu Marzouq who indirectly indicated that, at least external Hamas, does not believe that it is in the group's interests to make concessions at a time when Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbass is so weak. When asked about the inter-Palestinian meeting that failed to take place in Damascus after being rescheduled for September 28, the diplomat said, "The Palestinians are fighting each other, not with words but with bullets in the streets." It was unlikely that any such meeting would take place in the near future, he claimed.
CORBIN